

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 217858

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 217858

FOLLOWING REPEAT SINGAPORE 4078 ACTION SECSTATE, INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA, AMEMBASSY JAKARTA, AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR,
30 AUG 76

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 4078

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, SN

SUBJECT: VIETNAMESE REFUGEES: BOAT CASE LADY CYNTHIA

REF: JAKARTA 11302, KUALA LUMPUR 4930

1. AUSTRALIAN REGISTERED. FRENCH-OWNED VESSEL "LADY CYNTHIA"
ARRIVED SINGAPORE, AUGUST 29 AND IS BERTHED WITHIN SINGAPOREAN
TERRITORIAL WATERS AT LOYANG OFFSHORE OIL SUPPLY BASE. THERE
ARE TWENTY-TWO 22) REFUGEES ABOARD, EVIDENTLY ALL THAT WERE
ABOARD CHOU-LONG". SINGAPOREANS HAVE SENT ABOARD DOCTOR AND
IMMIGRATION GUARD.

2. EMBOFF, IN CONVERSATION WITH AUSTRALIAN HICOM OFFICER, WAS
LEARNED THAT SINGAPORE HAS REPEATED ITS STANDING DEMAND FOR"
UNCONDITIONAL ACCEPTANCE" BEFORE DEBARKATION WILL BE ALLOWED.
HE STATED THAT WITHOUT DOMESTIC POLITICAL PRESSURE ON GOA,
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PAGE 02 STATE 217858

THERE IS ONLY "SMALL. SLIGHT PROPECT OF ACCEPTANCE

OF REFUGEES MEET IMMIGRATION STANDARDS." HICOM OFFICER REVEALED THAT VESSEL'S OPERATOR, OFFSHORE SERVICES, WILL USE CONSIDERABLE PRESSURE IN CANBERRA TO PUBLICIZE INCIDENT TO PURSUADE GOA TO AID THIS GROUP. EMBOFF BRIEFED HICOM OFFICER ON PREVIOUS GOS REFUGEE POLICY AND INCIDENTS AND MENTIONED ISSUE OF "FIRST PORT OF CALL" HICOM OFFICER STATED THAT REFUGEE SHIP SANK WITHIN INDONESIAN TERRITORIAL WATERS, NOT ON "HIGH SEAS" BUT WAS UNCERTAIN OF THIS FACT. HE WILL PASS BACKGROUND INFORMATION TO CANBERRA.

3. UNHCR OFFICE IN KUALA LUMPUR WILL BE BRIEFED BY AUSTRALIANS RE STATUS OF CASE. EMBASSY SINGAPORE WILL PROCESS AFTER UNHCP REPRESENTATIVE INTERVIEWS BOATLOAD.
HOWDRIDGE UNQUOTE ROBINSON

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Message Attributes

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